

**REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2004, claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1-14 remain in the case. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koike (U.S. Patent No. 5,231,519) in view of Ayata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,866,532).

The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection based on the arguments below and the amendments to claims 1 and 8.

In particular, the Applicants contend that Koike, taken alone or in combination with Ayata et al., do not disclose, teach or suggest all of the elements of the Applicants' claimed invention.

However, the Examiner stated that claims 12-14 were allowable. As such, although the Applicants contend that the claims are allowable before the present amendment, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this case, the Applicants have added the allowable limitations of allowed claim 12 into claims 1 and 8. Hence, the Applicants submit that claims 1-14 are allowable.

Consequently, the rejections are moot. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

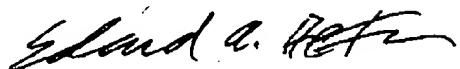
With regard to the dependent claims, since they depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, they are therefore patentable on at least the same basis. (MPEP § 2143.03).

In view of the arguments and amendments set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejected claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding claim rejections and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to expedite and further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the

Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at (818) 885-1575. Please note that all correspondence should continue to be directed to:

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Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

Respectfully submitted,  
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